

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 09770 120639Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 /056 W
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O 120630Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7027

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 09770

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: NEW AMNESTY DECREE WIDENS COVERAGE

REF: (A) MANILA 9761; (B) MANILA 9762

1. SUMMARY: NEW AMNESTY DECREE ISSUED JUNE 11 BROADENS SCOPE OF EXISTING PROVISIONS AND EVIDENTLY PROVIDES A LEGAL BASIS FOR AQUINO'S AMNESTY. IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH MARCOS CITED THIS LATEST DECREE BUT, AS ANTICIPATED, MADE NO MENTION OF AQUINO BY NAME. AS OF AFTERNOON JUNE 12, WE HAVE NO FURTHER WORD ON AQUINO'S POSSIBLE RELEASE. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL THREE MAJOR DAILIES JUNE 12 FRONT-PAGE REPORTED ISSUANCE OF NEW PRESIDENTIAL DECREE (PD-1429) PREVIOUS DAY WHICH BROADENS THE SCOPE OF EXISTING AMNESTY PROVISIONS. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE NEW DECREE AMNESTY IS PROCLAIMED FOR PERSONS CHARGED WITH CERTAIN SUBVERSION AND PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES NOT COVERED BY EARLIER PROVISIONS. WHILE OTHER CATEGORIES (E.G. PERSONS WHO HAVE PROMOTED OR HEADED A REBELLION OR WHO HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH MURDER)
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ARE NOT COVERED BY THE NEW DECREE, THERE IS A CATCH-ALL PROVISION IN PD-1429 WHICH STATES THAT NOTWITHSTANDING THE PROVISIONS OF THE DECREE, THE PRESIDENT, ON HIS OWN OR UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY WHICH HE MAY DESIGNATE, MAY EXTEND AMNESTY TO "DESERVING PERSONS". THE NEW DECREE WENT INTO EFFECT ON JUNE 10 AND COVERS THE 631 DETAINEES GRANTED AMNESTY

THAT DAY (REF A).

3. DURING THE COURSE OF HIS 90-MINUTE INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW PARLIAMENT JUNE 12, PRESIDENT MARCOS STATED: "WE SHALL NOW STRIVE FINALLY TO WIDEN THE SCOPE OF CLEMENCY FOR THOSE UNDER DETENTION FOR ACTIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CRITICAL INITIATIVE OF POLITICAL NORMALIZATION. I HAVE JUST SIGNED, AS YOU ALL KNOW, A NEW AMNESTY DECREE AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1182 AND GIVING TO HUNDREDS OF DETAINEES AN OPPORTUNITY TO BEGIN THEIR LIVES ANEW UNDER THE NEW SOCIETY. IT IS MY INTENTION TO CONTINUE WITH THIS EFFORT TO RELEASE AS MANY OF THESE DETAINEES AS WE CAN. MAY THEY USE THIS OPPORTUNITY WELL."

4. COMMENT: PD-1429 IS EVIDENTLY THE NEW DECREE WHICH FORMER SENATOR SALONGA ADVISES WILL PROVIDE THE LEGAL BASIS FOR AQUINO'S AMNESTY (PARA 5 REF B). AS ANTICIPATED, IN HIS IBP ADDRESS MARCOS MADE NO MENTION OF AQUINO BY NAME. AS OF 1400 JUNE 12 WE HAVE NO FURTHER WORD ON HIS POSSIBLE RELEASE.

5. FULL REPORT OF PRESIDENT'S SPEECH, INCLUDING HIS TREATMENT OF US-RP SECURITY AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS, WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

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